

## 1998 Legal Counselors' Committee Minutes

October 2, 1998

### Action Items:

1. **Review surveys submitted and establish informal directory.**
2. **Reconfigure surveys and send to LMSCs through News You Can Use**
3. **Circulate draft letter agreement within committee for review and comment.**
4. **Establish informal liaison with USMS committee chairs.**

### Attendance:

Number of Committee Members present: 6 Number of Committee Members absent: 4  
Total number of delegates attending meeting: 11

### Minutes

1. **Welcome and Introduction of Committee Members.**
2. **Discussion of Survey.**

Too soon to evaluate response. Committee decided to have JMC redraft survey to be sent to all USMS members for completion. Initial distribution is to be made through News You Can Use. Committee may at a later time consider additional methods of distribution.

3. **Theme of Convention.**

The purpose of our initial committee meeting was to establish a dialogue within the framework of our convention theme. Committee discussed philosophical approach of USMS and lawyers' traditional role within the organization. Legal Counsel advocated and committee endorsed fostering a collegial approach between USMS delegate-lawyers and the House of Delegates. Through an active, non-adversarial relationship, delegate-lawyers will work with committee chairs and members to accomplish committee goals while simultaneously seeking approaches that accommodate any tensions between those goals and potential liability issues.

#### **4. Discussion of Possible Committee Projects.**

a.) Surveys are to be used to compile an informal resource directory for Legal Counsel to reference when addressing legal questions that USMS confronts in the future.

b.) A draft or model letter agreement is to be circulated within the committee for comment. Legal Counsel will then incorporate comments as appropriate.

c.) The committee will establish an informal liaison network with other committees so that those committees can take advantage of our lawyers' drafting experience. Legal Counsel will draft and send short memo to committee chairs.

d.) The committee spent some time discussing current legal issues of note to USMS: legal issues raised by the internet and safety concerns. The committee discussed ideas to implement on-line meet registration, which ideas will be forwarded to the computer on-line committee and championship. With respect to safety, the committee agreed that USMS committees should be encouraged to continue their excellent efforts to educate our members about potential safety problems within the sport and suggest ways to address these problems.

Adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

**Tasks for the year:** See Action Items.